IN THE SPECIFICATION:

B1 At page 16, lines 3-4, please delete each of "106," "107," "108," "1010" and "1011" and substitute therefor --10^6--, --10^7--, --10^8--, --10^9--, --10^{10}-- and --10^{11}--, respectively.

B2 At page 26, line 18, please delete each of "95oC," "55oC," and "72oC" and substitute therefor --95°C --, --55°C --, and --72°C --, respectively.

B3 At page 32, lines 7-8, after each recitation of "Fc," please insert--ε--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 40 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

39. (Amended) A method for inhibiting an NK- or a T cell- expressed cell surface MAFA binding to a ligand on a target cell comprising the following steps

B4 (a) providing a soluble [agent] MAFA extracellular domain that [prevents] inhibits the binding of the NK- or the T cell-expressed cell surface MAFA to its target cell ligand; and

(b) contacting the soluble [agent] MAFA extracellular domain to the NK or the T cell or the target cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit cell surface MAFA binding to the ligand on the target cell.

40. (Canceled) ~~The method of claim 39, wherein the soluble agent that prevents the binding of the NK- or the T cell-expressed cell surface MAFA to its target cell ligand is an anti-MAFA antibody, or a composition comprising a subsequence of an anti-MAFA antibody, wherein the subsequence comprises an antigen binding site, that binds to the cell surface MAFA.~~

45. The method of claim 39, wherein the contacting is in vitro or ex vivo.

46. The method of claim 39, wherein the contacting is in vivo.

B5 47. (Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the in vivo contacting comprises administering the soluble [agent] MAFA extracellular domain to a subject.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the subject is a mammal.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the mammal is a human.

50. The method of claim 39, wherein the target cell is a tumor cell.

51. The method of claim 39, wherein inhibiting the NK- or the T cell- expressed cell surface

MAFA binding to the ligand on the target cell prevents or inhibits the NK- or T cell-expressed cell surface MAFA from generating an inhibitory signal to the NK or the T cell.

52. (Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein [preventing or inhibiting the NK- or T cell-expressed cell surface MAFA from] generating an inhibitory signal to the NK or the T cell stimulates an activity of the NK or the T cell.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the stimulated NK cell or T cell activity is an increase in NK cell- or T cell-mediated cell killing.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the stimulated NK cell- or T cell- mediated cell killing is tumor cell killing.

55. (Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the stimulated T cell activity is an increase in T killer cell (CTL) activity or secretion of a cytokine [secretion] by the T cell.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein the stimulated T cell activity is an increase in T killer cell (CTL) activity against virally infected cells.

Please add the following new claims:

62. The method of claim 39, wherein the soluble MAFA extracellular domain is selected from an extracellular domain of human, rat or mouse MAFA.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the human, rat and mouse MAFA extracellular domain are set forth in an extracellular domain of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 and 5, respectively.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the mouse MAFA extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 64 to 188 of SEQ ID NO:5.

65. (New) A method for inhibiting an NK- or a T cell- expressed cell surface MAFA binding to a ligand on a target cell comprising the following steps

(a) providing an agonist anti-MAFA antibody or a subsequence of an agonist anti-MAFA antibody that inhibits the binding of the NK- or the T cell-expressed cell surface MAFA to its target cell ligand; and

(b) contacting the agonist anti-MAFA antibody or subsequence of the agonist anti-MAFA antibody to the NK or the T cell or the target cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit cell surface MAFA binding to the ligand on the target cell.

66. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the contacting is in vitro or ex vivo.

67. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the contacting is in vivo.

68. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the in vivo contacting comprises administering the agonist anti-MAFA antibody or subsequence of the agonist anti-MAFA antibody to a subject.

69. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the subject is a mammal.

70. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the mammal is a human.

71. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the agonist anti-MAFA antibody or subsequence of the agonist anti-MAFA antibody generates an inhibitory signal to the NK or the T cell that inhibits an activity of the NK or the T cell.

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72. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the activity inhibited comprises NK cell- or T cell-mediated cytotoxicity or secretion of a cytokine.--